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THE OBSERVATOR.

The Revolution *further Vindicated from the Examples of the* Poles. *Remarks on* Mercurius Politicus. *Of the Taking of* Barcelona.

From **Wednesday** October the 24th, to **Saturday** October the 27th, 1705.

Obs. I Know, Honeſt *Country-man*, you come in Expectation of hearing more of the Subject Matter of our laſt Conferences. It is Pertinent enough to Vindicate the People of *England* in Point of *Reſiſtance*, and their Behaviour to King *James* II. upon the *Revolution*, by the Examples of Foreigners, to ſhow that we did no new thing; and what we did, was according to thoſe Eternal Rules of *Juſtice*, by which the Civiliz'd part of Mankind do *Govern* themſelves. But herein I muſt be ſhort, intending to ſpeak more largely on what our Anceſtors have done in this Caſe, which is the Rule by which *Engliſhmen* ought to Act, and by which they muſt Juſtifie their Actions.

I can give you no better Examples at this time than thoſe of *Poland*, by which the Wiſdom of the *Northern* People, in ſetting Bounds to the Power of their Princes will appear. The Family of *Lech* was the firſt Founder of that Kingdom, which remained not long under that *Conſtitution*, for that Family being extinct, and the People finding themſelves under ſome Inconveniencies of *Government*. They (as they thought) for the Good of the *Community*, changed the *Royal Government* into that of XII. *Waywods*, otherwiſe call'd *Palatines*; who abuſing their Power, they Re-Eſtabliſh'd the *Regal Government*, in Favour of *Cracus*, whoſe ſecond Son was expelled by the *Polanders* for killing his Elder Brother.

Afterwards they choſe the Daughter of *Cracus* for Queen, who, as the Hiſtories relate, Drowned her ſelf to avoid Marriage; and then they again Eſtabliſhed Twelve *Palatines*, whom they afterwards Suppreſs'd, becauſe they found them inſufficient to defend their Country, which is the chief End of Eſtabliſhing *Governours*, who are appointed by *God* and *Civil Societies* for the Defence of their Own, the Peoples Rights, and the Preſervation of their Country.

The *Poles* now betake themſelves to the *Regal Government*, as they had done before, and choſe *Premiel* for their King. Some Authors are Poſſitive that this was *Leſko* the Firſt, that lived about the Year 750. For it was not till the Year 965. that *Mieſko* turn'd *Chriſtian*, and took the Title of King of *Poland*, which was confirmed by the Emperor *Otho* III. to *Boſletas* his Succeſſor.

His Succeſſors continued till *Leſko* the Black, who not being able to expel the *Tartars*, was forced to quit the Kingdom by Flight. He dying without Iſſue, and the *Poles* labouring under the Inconvenience of *Inteſtine Wars*, and being deſirous of *Peace*, were willing to hearken to any Propoſals for reſtoring the *Tranquillity* of a Diſtracted Nation: To this End, at the *Inſtigation* of their Great Lords, they choſe *Premiel* to be their King.

But he being ſoon after killed and leaving no Iſſue, they proceeded to the choice of *Ladiſlaus* for their King. But no ſooner had they Veſted him with the *Regalia*, Booted, Spur'd, and Placed him in the Saddle of *Authority*, but he rode Poſt-haſte to *Arbitrary-Power*, and they as ſoon ſtop'd him in his Career, and Unhors'd him at once; for he was depoſed by the *States-General*, and *Wemeſlaus*, King of *Bohemia*, was choſen in his ſtead.

But he dying in the Year 1305. and *Ladiſlaus*, who had been depoſed and had had time enough to cool his Brains, was re-called to the *Regal State* and *Dignity*, in hopes that the Conſideration of his Diſgrace had Amended and Sweetned his Temper. *Caſamir*, his Son, ſucceeded after his Death, and in the Year 1370. propoſed for his Succeſſor, by the Conſent of the *States*, *Lewis*, the Son of *Charles*, King of *Hungary*, by his Siſter.

Lewis dying, the *Poles* choſe *Edwiga*, his Daughter who, rather than loſe the Splendour of a Queen, conſented to Marry whomſoever the *States* ſhould propoſe to her for a Huſband, ſo that, at the Recommendation of the *States*, ſhe was Married to *Jagello*, Duke of *Lithuania*, who had the Name of *Ladiſlaus* given him by the Arch-Biſhop of *Geſna*, by whom he was Crowned, being firſt Baptized.

Edwiga dying without Iſſue, and being ſurvived by her Huſband, he had for Succeſſors the Children of his fourth Wife, who continued to *Sygismond Auguſtus*. In the Year 1573. they made choice of *Henry*, Duke of *Anjou*, for King; who having Reigned [illegible] abandoned the Kingdom to take Poſſeſſion of the Crown of *France*.

This cauſed a great and unhappy Diviſion in the *States*, much ſuch another as is at preſent in that unhappy Kingdom: For one part having choſen the Emperor *Maximilian*, the Second; and the other part *Ann*, the Siſter of *Sygismond Auguſtus*, whom they Married to *Stephen Battori*, Prince of *Tranſilvania*, raiſed great Commotions; but the Petticoats carrying the Day, they were Crowned at *Cracoviam* 1576. After the Death of *Stephen* the *States* choſe *Sygismond*, Son of *John* III. King of *Sweden*, and of *Katherine*, Daughter of *Sygismond* I. King of *Poland*.

Now, Honeſt *Country-man*, from what I have ſaid concerning the *Government* of *Poland* it is plainly Evident That the *Poles* never acknowledged the Doctrines of *Paſſive-Obedience* and *Non-Reſiſtance*, That all the *Revolutions* in their Kingdom have been founded on true Solid *Fundamental Principles* of *Government*.

That they have ever pretended to be the Maſters that had Right to give Form to their *State*, as beſt ſuited with the *Good* and *Welfare* of the People.

That they ever held it in their Power to Reject or Expel from the *Government* ſuch *Princes* or

or Rulers that turn'd the *Government* against the *People*, that had rais'd them to that *Dignity*, for no other End than the *Publick Good*.

That they never thought themselves bound to the Succession in the *Right Line*, as some call it, and yet that they had an Eye to the Succession, as far as it suited with the good of the *State*.

That the Abdication or Desertion of their Kings, has been a Reason equal to that of *Tyranny* or *Mis-Government*, for them to proceed to a New *Election*, and Totally to Reject and Deprive them of *Government*; whereof *Lesko*, Sirnamed the *Black*, and *Henry* III. of *France* are Instances.

That when their Kings have Signed the *Pacta Conventa*, and have Sworn to *Govern* according to the *Capitulations* and *Laws* of the *Realm*, That if afterwards they break this Oath by turning *Tyrants*, the People are dispensed with the *Oath of Fealty* they have Sworn to them.

Honest *Country-man*, there is no Nation in the World so *Savage* and *Brutish*, as to suffer a Prince to Trample on the *Establish'd Laws*, to *Murder* and *Destroy* Millions of People; and at the same time to believe that *God* sent him to Commit all these *Outrages*, and that the People ought not to Resist him in so doing under Pain of *Damnation*.--But what Text is that you spoke of in *Mercurius Politicus*, on which you desire some Remarks?

Country-m. Master, 'tis in Numb. 38. Page 150. Col. 2. He's giving Us other Reasons for the bringing over the Princes of the *House of Hannover*; I am satisfi'd that he's given to *Leasing-Making*, for he says, *Whether the* Whigs *ever have made use of that Expedient, of Inviting over the Princes of the* House of Hannover *(as was proposed by some of 'em in the late Kings time) to the Disappointment of Her Majesties Succession, is a Point which we shall not pretend to Determine here: But we may venture to affirm, That the Proposal does not carry the same Face of Danger that it did then. For not to mention or suppose a Party at that time Disaffected to Her and Her Succession; there is a great Disparity between the Circumstances of this Time and that.*

Obs. You must understand, Honest *Country-man*, that this Author did formerly Asperse King *William*, as if that Prince had designed to defeat the *Succession* of Her present Majesty to the *Crown* of *England*; and that there was a Scheme for that purpose amongst the Kings Papers; and that several of the *Topping Whigs* of the Kingdom were in his Design, which was to be effected by the bringing over the Princes of the *House of Hannover* to Succeed imediately, upon the Demise of King *William*.

Now, as no Honest Man in *England* did believe that ever such a Thought enter'd into the Heart of King *William*, so the *Lords*, in order to Vindicate the Memory of that Great Prince, appointed a *Committee* to examine his Papers, who Reported the matter of Fact to be False, *&c.* and the *House* [illegible] Publish'd it as a *Malicious False-hood*; and this very Author was order'd to be Prosecuted thereupon; but how he was Prosecuted I have nothing to say.

Now he Trumps up the same Story against the *Whigs*, as he calls all those Gentlemen that were for the *Revolution*, let 'em be *Churchmen* or *Dissenters*; and by and by he'll tell you, That the *Whigs* are for setting aside the *Hannover Succession*, if they don't Invite over the *Hannover Family*, as before they were for setting aside the *Queens Succession* by Inviting them over. Which shows the Weakness of the *Faction* when they Publish such strange Inconsistencies.

For mark the Argument, and the Reason of the thing. The *Whigs* were the only Persons that procured the Settlement of the *Crown* on the present Queen; and after Her on the Princes of the *House of Hannover*, being *Protestants*. Therefore they are minded to set aside their Succession by not Inviting them over.

The *Tories*, i. e. the *Faction* opposed the *Revolution*, the *Settlement* of the *Crown* on King *William* and Queen *Mary*, as also its *Settlement* on the *Family of Hannover*, after the Demise of Queen *Anne*; therefore they intend to Settle the *Succession* by calling over the Princes of that *House*. Very fine Consequences, indeed.

He in this Paper curries Favour with the Queen, and says, *We have had some Years Experience of Her Majesties Great Wisdom and Gracious Disposition, &c.* And but t'other day he call'd Her a *Usurper*, as coming to the *Throne* by *the* Revolution, *by which we lost our* Constitution, *and all our* Civil Rights, *depending thereupon, ceas'd with it.* Shall we ever expect to reconcile this Man to *Sense* and *Reason*, when we find it impossible to reconcile himself to himself?

Now he, who has all along opposed the *House of Hannover*, is for Inviting them over; tho', by what I quoted before of his, he accounts them also a Succession of *Usurpers*; for they can have no very good Right to the *Throne*, that come to it by the Destruction of our *Civil Rights* and our *Constitution*.

He has, indeed, Spoken plain enough already in Print; but I Love one that will back his Argument with his Actions; why did he not 'tother day, when he Appear'd at the *Queens-Bench*, question the *Authority* of the *Judges*, and tell 'em, plainly, That they had nothing to do with him; That they, coming to the *Bench* by *the* Revolution, *by which we lost our* Constitution, *and all our* Civil Rights, could have no *Legal Jurisdiction* over him? And I don't know who in *England* has any *Authority* in an *Office*, or how any Body is Obliged to pay Respect to the chief *Ministers* of the Kingdom, if they came to the Possession of their *Offices* by the Ruin of our *Constitution*, as this *Doctor* of *Politicks* affirms.

But enough of this at present, Honest *Country-man*, you find after the *Faction* had done all they could to talk the Earl of *Peterborough*'s Expedition Abortive, he has got Possession of *Barcelona*, and consequently of the Province of *Catalonia*. We have no Great Guns to Fire, but we'll Drink his Lordships Good Health and Safe Return to *England*, with as much Zeal, in a Pot of *October*, as any of 'em all that Drink it in *Wine*, Crowned with the Report of *Cannon*.

Country-m. Master, I'll Pledge that Health with all my Spirit, and will make a good Huzza with my Chaps, tho' I can't Spit Iron-Dumplins in the Face of His Enemies; but I would do it if I could.

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